



OFFICES OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENSE

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September is National Preparedness Month – “Prepare to Protect”

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) invite the island to celebrate September as National Preparedness Month (NPM). To commemorate the month, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero will declare NPM with a proclamation signing on Friday, September 3, at 11:30 a.m., via Zoom and can be watched on the Governor’s Facebook page.

The 2021 NPM theme is **“Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love.”**

NPM is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time.

“Planning and preparing for any disaster can be challenging, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Patrick Leon Guerrero, Civil Defense Acting Administrator. “Know how the COVID-19 pandemic can affect disaster preparedness and recovery, and what you can do to keep yourself and others safe.”

The NPM Weekly Themes are as follows:

- Week 1 September 1-4: Make a Plan: Talk to your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster. Make sure to update your plan based on the Centers for Disease Control recommendations due to the coronavirus.
- Week 2 September 5-11: Build a Kit: Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don’t forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly. Update your kits and supplies based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control.
- Week 3 September 12-18: Low-Cost, No-Cost Preparedness: Limit the impacts that disasters have on you and your family. Know the risk of disasters in your area. Learn how to make your home stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards. Check your insurance coverage to make sure it is up-to-date.
- Week 4 September 20-26: Teach Youth about Preparedness: Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated. Reassure them by providing information about how they can get involved.

GHS/OCD will host emergency preparedness contests for elementary, middle, and high school students to participate in safely from the comfort of their homes and will promote preparedness tips online. Along with building a kit and making a plan, the community is also encouraged to follow GHS/OCD online on Facebook and Instagram to view preparedness tips and activities by emergency management partners.

Learn more about event details and ways you can participate throughout the month:

- GHS/OCD Website: <https://ghs.guam.gov/>
- GHS/OCD Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/>
- GHS/OCD Instagram: @ghsodc

For more information, contact Whole Community Preparedness Program Manager, Jaimie H. Cruz at (671) 688-0438 or via email at jaimie.cruz@ghs.guam.gov

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